

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, August 11, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Cambridge, Friday, Aug. 11th, (1876) My dear Alec:

Your letters of Aug. 8th just received with thanks. I am beginning to feel as if I had a post all to myself your letters come so regularly by the afternoon mail just when we have finished dinner, and are waiting for dessert.

Really I am very glad no one had seriously to report me "bitten by a black fly!" that is altogether too much. It seems to me you have rather a hard time of it with all the fun your friends are making of you!

You are today visiting the Indians? how happy you must be with the descendant of the chief who scalped my ancestors in "the revolutionary war with ever so much love"!! I shall be very anxious to hear about your visit and also of your telegraphic experiments yesterday between Brantford and Paris. I am so glad you are coming home next week, but am very sorry you must leave your mother. She must need all the comfort she can get when her brother and niece go away again. Please give her my love. The paper with the notice of your father's party arrived this morning. I think the Canadians rival us in saying fine things of prominent gentlemens hospitality. It is to be hoped they do not rival us in saying unkind things of his character. This makes me think of our poor misused and slandered President. I have been wavering in my allegiance to him, reading all the papers said of him I thought there could not be so much smoke without fire, but today I read an article in Harper's Weekly saying 2 he was even more bitterly assailed when General of our armies, when leading them on to victory before the walls of Richmond. And so I think as it was then so it is now, all the good he has done is overlooked or claimed and attributed to others, as the planning of the March to the Sea to Sherman, and all the evils

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that could not have been avoided, or were in consequence of the corrupt state of affairs at the close of the war and during Johnson's administration, are noticed and magnified. As we have done justice to his conduct through the war, so will he do justice to his Presidency by and by. And I do admire Grant, so quietly allowing others to get all the credit, and enduring all the odium. It shows such quiet unselfishness, a selfish man could not have stood that.

What a political epistle. All the fault of Mamma's pen

(part of letter missing)

face a winter's work.

Dear Alec goodbye again with much love,

Lovingly your, Mabel. Thank you for Mr. Gage's letter, I think it a gentlemanly and interesting, though why he should take the trouble to give you his idea if he was not vain enough to, think it could be new or useful to you. Will you answer it? I notice all letters labelled "No reply necessary" are those which get it.